



## **OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

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### **Austin Man Sentenced to Forty Years for the Murder of his Estranged Wife**

Today the Travis County District Attorney's Office secured a guilty plea and forty-year prison sentence in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to the offense of Murder. The defendant, Jose Israel Amaya, faced a possible range of punishment from five years to 99 years or life.

On March 2, 2018, a friend of Amaya called the Austin Police Department and told them Amaya had just called him and confessed to killing his estranged wife, Patricia Campos, and said he was still at Ms. Campos's home. APD deployed its SWAT team to the house and after a brief standoff, Amaya surrendered peacefully and was taken into custody. Police immediately entered the home and found Ms. Campos on her bed, deceased.

A post-mortem examination concluded that Ms. Campos had been beaten and strangled, and possibly suffocated, and had likely died two days prior to Amaya's arrest. Testing later confirmed that Amaya's DNA was found on Ms. Campos's hands and neck.

This fatal attack came just two months after Ms. Campos ended her relationship with Amaya and told him to leave the home, following an assault on her on New Year's Eve in which he strangled her.

Lead prosecutor Mark Pryor said: "This case highlights the tragic ways in which domestic abusers escalate violence against their victims. Ms. Campos was a loving mother, extremely hard working and responsible, and took steps to regain control of her life after being abused. I hope this plea agreement is a first step in helping her surviving children and family members move forward with their lives, and I am grateful for their patience and cooperation while helping us bring their mother's killer to justice."

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